

Mr. C. W. BENSON sent the following notes on a recent tour in southern Abyssinia :—

A new Species and Ten new Races from Southern Abyssinia.

General Introduction.

I have recently spent ten months in Southern Abyssinia, from June 1941 until March 1942. I was able to take with me my native collector and skinner, who had worked for me for eight years in Nyasaland. My duties as a Political Officer necessitated a considerable amount of travelling, and this, in conjunction with the keenness of my native assistant, enabled me to get together a very representative collection of over 2400 specimens. I spent most of the month of April 1942 on leave in Nairobi, and that time was largely spent in studying my collection with Dr. van Someren. Dr. van Someren put his magnificent collection of Kenya Colony, Uganda and Jubaland birds entirely at my disposal, and he devoted the whole of the time of my leave to collaborating with me.

Moreover, as the collection was gradually being built up, I was able to send to Dr. van Someren 200–300 birds at a time, and these were tentatively identified and an indication was given as to what species were of particular interest from the ecological and geographical point of view, and a point was made of securing sufficient comparative material. I am under a debt of deep gratitude to him, and the notes and descriptions of new birds which follow are based on his advice and wide experience. Dr. van Someren has allowed me to describe certain material from his Jubaland collection. My Southern Abyssinian collection will be kept by me in Africa until the war is over, when it is my intention to present it to the British Museum (Natural History).

Before dealing with the descriptions of the birds which appear to be new (one species and ten races), I take the opportunity to allude to certain other birds which, although previously known, were extremely rare and represented by very few specimens indeed.

FALCO FASCIINUCHA Reichw. & Neum., O. M. iii. 1895, p. 114 : Teita, Kenya Colony.

This bird was previously only known from two specimens, both taken in the Voi-Teita area. I secured three specimens at Yavello, thus extending its range for hundreds of miles to the northward.

Material collected.—Two males, wings 205, 208, tails 90, 86 mm. ; one female, wing 232, tail 102 mm.

A conspicuous feature of this bird is the very short tail, which does not extend as far as the wing-tips. Apart from colour differences, it is

at once distinguishable from *Falco cuvieri* in this respect. All three specimens were associated with a cliff about 300 ft. high among juniper-clad hills surrounding Yavello, at about 6000 ft. altitude.

TAURACO RUSPOLII Salvadori, Ann. Mus. Genova, (2) xvi. 1896, p. 44 : Lake Abbaia, Southern Abyssinia.

The type of this bird was unique. Five specimens (two males, two females and one unsexed) were obtained. They inhabited the extensive juniper woods with a dense evergreen undergrowth at Arero about 60 miles east of Yavello at about 6000 ft. They have been compared with the coloured plate (Pl. I., Ibis, 1913) and the re-description given by Salvadori (*op. cit.* pp. 1-2), and they agree very well with these. The sexes are alike in size and colour.

ZAVATTARIORNIS STRESEMANNI Moltoni, O. M. xlvi. 1938, p. 80 : Yavello.

Twenty specimens of this new genus and species were obtained from the type-locality. Nothing was recorded regarding its habitat and habits, and observations in these respects may be of interest. In the "thorn-acacia" country within a few miles of Yavello, to the north and south, it is very common. In the non-breeding season it goes about in parties of half a dozen. The call is a high-pitched "chek". It was found breeding in March, when many nests were seen. It is not colonial in its nesting. The normal site is at the top of a 20-ft. high thorn-tree. The nest is an untidy structure composed of thorn-twigs about 1 ft. long and 20 mm. thick. It is roughly globular in shape, with an external diameter of about 2 ft. Inside is a globular chamber of about 1 ft. in diameter; on the floor of this is a mixture of dung and short pieces of dry grass. The entrance to the chamber is from the top, and this is protected by a vertical tubular tunnel of about 6 in. in height, 12 in. in outside diameter, but with internal diameter of not more than 3 in. This superstructure is added to the body of the nest just before the eggs are laid. The general appearance of a completed nest is of a vertical cylinder tapering towards the top, with the entrance tunnel at the summit.

Several clutches of eggs were taken. The largest clutch of six held embryos of equal development and can be taken as complete. The eggs are cream-coloured, with blotches of pale lilac, the markings being especially plentiful, and in the form of a ring toward the larger end. They are slightly glossy and smooth in texture. An average measurement is 27 by 20 mm. It was normal to observe three birds emerge from a single nest, but there is no evidence from the clutches to suggest that more than one female was responsible for the eggs.

The foregoing field-notes may suggest affinity of *Zavattariornis* with the Sturnidæ, though, on the other hand, the rather long bill with curved culmen, the rectal bristles extending well over the nostrils and the bare area around the eye, which in fresh specimens is bright blue in colour, fading in twenty-four hours to blackish, and the general scutation of the tarsus, suggest that Moltoni was correct in placing the bird among the Corvidæ. Specimens of the Mallophaga have been submitted to Mr. G. H. E. Hopkins for report. It will be of interest to know if they resemble those of the Sturnidæ rather than Corvidæ, or *vice versa*.

✓ *FRANCOLINUS COQUI* MAHARAO Sclater, Bull. B. O. C. xlviii. 1927, p. 51 ; Dugata Sasabin, 4000 ft., Southern Abyssinia.

Previously known from the type, a single male. This very well-marked race was plentiful in the open short-grassed plains at 4000 to 4500 ft. between Yavello and Mega. A long series of adults and young was taken.

✓ *PSEUDALÆMON FREMANTLII* (Phillips) ; *CALANDRELLA* sp. : and *AËTHOCORYS PERSONATA* (Sharpe).

Examples of the above three species were collected in the short-grassed plains between Yavello and Mega. The first two have been compared with *Pseudalæmon delamerei* Sharpe and *Calandrella athensis* (Sharpe) respectively. They differ markedly. The former is possibly similar to the nominotypical *P. fremantlii*, which is a rare bird in collections.

✓ *Aëthocorys personata* is equally rare and is quite different to the Kenya Colony race *Aë. p. intensa* Rothschild, Bull. B. O. C. li. 1931, p. 100, from the northern Guasso Nyiro.

Hirundo megaensis, sp. nov.

Description.—Nearest to *Hirundo leucosoma* Swainson, Bds. W. Afr. ii. 1837, p. 74 : West Africa, in general scheme of plumage, but at once distinguishable by the absence of the white line in the wing and the different tail-pattern.

Adult male.—The whole of the upper surface from front to upper tail-coverts, including the wings, steely blue. Ear-coverts, side of neck, and a small patch on either side of the breast the same colour. Whole of under-surface from chin to under tail-coverts, including under wing-coverts and axillaries, pure white. Tail moderately forked, the difference between the central feathers and the elongated ones about 20 mm. ; outer tail-feathers abruptly attenuated, blue-black on outer web to tip, with a large area of white on the inner web ; penultimate pair less blue-

black on outer web, and on the inner web this colour extends for about 3 mm. from the tip; next pair only slightly greyish towards tip of outer web; remainder of tail-feathers white with black shaft-streaks running almost from tip to base. In other words, the tail expanded exhibits a white triangle, apex toward base of tail, outlined on either side by blue-black.

Adult female.—Differs from the male in being much less strongly blue, with the white on the tail limited to a large white area on the inner web of each feather toward the distal half, the tip being dark. Central pair bluish-grey toward centre, whitish at margins.

Sub-adult.—Three males are very similar to the adult female and have the same tail-pattern. No sub-adult females available.

Nestling plumage.—Duller and less blue-glossed on upper side than adult female or sub-adult male. The amount of white on the tail is restricted to a subterminal patch on the inner web, of about 10 mm. in length.

Distribution.—The open short-grassed country with scattered low bush between Yavello and Mega in Southern Abyssinia, at about 4000–4500 ft. Also extending to about 30 miles north of Yavello and about 30 miles south-east of Mega, toward the Kenya-Abyssinia frontier, in the same general type of country and at the same elevation. South of Mega and Moyale there is a sharp escarpment, and the general elevation drops to 3000 ft.; the bird appears to be entirely absent from this lower country.

Type.—Adult male. 10 miles north of Mèga, Southern Abyssinia, at 4000 ft., September 10, 1941. Collected by C. W. Benson; collector's no. E.833. Measurements of type: wing 100, tail 158 mm.

Remarks.—This new Swallow appears to have a very limited distribution, which no doubt accounts for it not having been previously discovered. In this restricted area it is, however, common. The large amount of white in the tail of the adult male is a very conspicuous feature when in flight. Whereas *Hirundo leucosoma* is stated to be associated with human dwellings and nesting therein (*cf.* Bds. Trop. W. Afr. v. p. 246), this is not so with *H. megaensis*; there are no buildings in its habitat. I suspect that it nests in holes in the tall chimney-shaped ant-hills which are common in the area, but I have been unable to prove this. It probably breeds in January–February, as a specimen taken in March showed no ossification of the skull. No call-note is recorded.

Three adult males, including the type, were collected, also two adult females, three sub-adult males and two females and one male in nestling plumage.

(1) *Vinago waalia jubaensis*, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *Vinago waalia waalia* (Meyer), Syst. Sum. Uebers. Zool. Entdeck. 1793, p. 128 : Tcherkin, near Lake Tsana, as follows :—Head and neck darker grey, mantle olive-green with a brownish-gold tinge, thus less bright ; “shoulder-patch” more reddish, less purplish ; grey of the breast darker ; belly a duller yellow, dull chrome as compared to a brighter lemon-chrome. Size smaller, *vide* measurements below.

Distribution.—Upper reaches of the Juba River at Unsi, Beila and Mandera, at 1000 ft.

Type.—Male. Beila, Juba River, Jubaland, January 1923. Collected by Dr. van Someren and in his private collection. Measurements of type : wing 171, tail 94, tarsus 24, culmen from base 20 mm.

Remarks.—Five specimens in Dr. van Someren’s collection, from the localities cited, have been compared with four from Southern Abyssinia (Yavello, Burgi and Arero) collected by C. W. Benson. The colour differences described above are striking. Dr. van Someren had long ago noted the differences (J. E. A. & U. N. H. Soc. no. 35, 1930), but owing to poor northern material had not described the race.

Wing-measurements of Juba birds : males, 170–171 ; females, 168, 172, 173 mm. Southern Abyssinian birds : males, 175, 179, 181 mm. ; one female, 171 mm.

(2) *Anthus caffer australoabyssinicus*, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *A. c. blayneyi* van Someren (Bull. B. O. C. xl. 1919, p. 56 : Olgerei, Kenya Colony) in that the spotting of the chest, though diminishing in size, is carried well up the throat, almost on to the chin. Thus the white area of the throat is reduced to a minimum, whereas in *A. c. blayneyi* the white throat is a conspicuous feature.

Distribution.—Only so far known from 30 miles south of Yavello, Southern Abyssinia, 10–15 miles north of Yavello, and 10 miles north of Mega, at 4500–5000 ft., in arid, park-like acacia country.

Type.—Male. 30 miles south of Yavello, 4500 ft., September 12, 1941. C. W. Benson ; collector’s no. E.841. Measurements : wing 70, tail 49 mm.

Remarks.—In addition to the type, five other males and three females were collected. These give measurements as follows :—Five males, wings 66–69, tails 44–47 mm. ; three females, wings 65–67, tails 43–44 mm. Compared with five examples of *A. c. blayneyi* from southern Kenya Colony, three in Dr. van Someren’s private collection and two in his collection in the Coryndon Museum. In one sub-adult of these five the spotting is present as in my birds, but this is a character of immaturity

and it is entirely lacking in the other four specimens, which include a breeding male and female, while in *A. c. australoabyssinicus* it is a character of the adult.

The range of *A. c. blayneyi* is from the Southern Masai Reserve eastward to the Ukamba country to west of the Tana River.

(3) *Mirafra pæcilosterna australoabyssinicus*, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *M. p. pæcilosterna* Reichw., Orn. Centralb. 1879, p. 155 : Kibaraja, Tana River, Kenya Colony, in the much greyer tone of the upper side, with no rusty wash, while on the underside the ground-colour is whiter and the spotting of the breast more distinct. No comparison is needed with *M. p. massaica* Fisch. & Reichw., J. f. O. 1884, p. 55 : Klein Arusha, Tanganyika Territory, which is very strongly washed with rufous on the mantle and very dark rufous on the underside,

Distribution.—Only so far definitely known from the arid country at 3000 ft., 20–25 miles south of Mega, S. Abyssinia ; but other birds from Southern Abyssinia are probably referable to this race, cf. Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. p. 317, who includes birds from this area in the nominotypical race.

Type.—Male. 20 miles south of Mega, S. Abyssinia, 3000 ft., February 15, 1942. Collected by C. W. Benson ; collector's no. E.2143. Measurements : wing 96, tail 68 mm.

Remarks.—In addition to the type, ten other specimens were taken, *i. e.*, eight males, one female and one sex undetermined. They have been compared with nine, including two topotypical, of *M. p. pæcilosterna*. seven of *M. p. massaica* and six from the Upper Juba River (Serenli and Neboi). My birds resemble more closely these Juba birds, but they are darker grey on the mantle and crown and are larger : wings 88, 93 (2), 94 (2), 95 (2), 96 and 97 mm. ; female 89 mm., one unsexed 94 mm. Juba birds : four males 90 mm. (2), 92 mm. (2) ; two females 85 and 90 mm. In my series, birds taken in February, March and on June 1 had enlarged gonads.

(4) *Turdus tephronotus australoabyssinicus*, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *T. tephronotus tephronotus* Cabanis, J. f. O. 1878, pp. 205–218 : Ndi, Teita district, Kenya Colony, in having the breast-band of a darker grey, less tinged with sandy ; the flanks and upper abdomen are richer orange-cinnamon ; the streaking on the throat is on the whole more pronounced ; the lower throat is usually more washed with ochreous, and the upper side is purer, darker grey.

Distribution.—Dense thorn bush at 3000–4500 ft. around Mega, Yavello and Arero, 60 miles east of Yavello, S. Abyssinia.

Type.—Male. Near Yavello, 4500 ft., January 14, 1942. Collected by C. W. Benson; collector's no. E.1836. Measurements of type: wing 107, tail 81 mm.

Remarks.—In addition to the type, seventeen other specimens were taken (thirteen males, two females and two juv. males in spotted dress). They have been compared with the following in Dr. van Someren's collection:—Three males and two females of topotypical *T. tephronotus*; four males and two females from the Juba River (Dolo, Neboi, Serenli and Mandera); and three males from Lamu and Manda Island. The two birds in the above series which most closely resemble mine are from Dolo and Neboi, localities which are, in fact, closest to areas from which mine were taken. The three birds from Lamu and Manda Island are the palest of any. Friedmann, in Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. 1937, p. 128, remarks that two birds from S. Abyssinia, taken in the same general area as mine, are somewhat darker on the sides and flanks than birds from Kenya, but a female from Dodoma is just as dark. But the fact that one can pick out one dark bird from Tanganyika Territory does not invalidate this new race in accordance with the 75 per cent. convention.

(5) *Erythropygia leucoptera pallida*, subsp. nov.

Description.—Crown paler grey and mantle much less rufous than in *E. leucoptera leucoptera* (Rüppell), Syst. Uebers. 1845, p. 38: Schoa, or *E. l. vulpina* Reichenow, J. f. O. 1891, p. 62: Ndi, Teita District, Kenya Colony. On the underside less rufous on the flanks, and streaking on the upper breast only slightly indicated in comparison with *E. l. leucoptera* and *E. l. vulpina*. This new race is also smaller, *vide post*.

Distribution.—The Juba River at and below 1000 ft. (Serenli, Neboi, Mandera).

Type.—Male. Serenli, Juba River, February 1923. Collected by Dr. van Someren, and is in his private collection. Measurement of type: wing 70, tail 66 mm.

Remarks.—The type and ten others in Dr. van Someren's collection have been compared with eight specimens taken by C. W. Benson near Yavello, Southern Abyssinia, which is comparatively close to the type-locality of *E. leucoptera leucoptera*, and these S. Abyssinian specimens are presumably referable to that race.

These Juba birds have also been compared with eight from the Northern Guasso River and Kerio River west of Rudolf, and with six topotypical *E. leucoptera vulpina*. The N. Guasso birds and those from West Rudolf are paler on the mantle than Southern Abyssinian birds, and represent an intermediate between the nominotypical race and *E. l. vulpina*.

Comparative wing-measurements:—

E. l. pallida.—Eight males, 68 mm. (3), 69 mm. (3), 69.5 mm., 70 mm.; three females, 64.5 mm. (2), 65 mm.

E. l. leucoptera.—Five males, 71, 72, 73 mm. (3); two females, 68 and 73 mm.; one (sex?), 68 mm.

E. leucoptera intermediates (Northern Guasso, W. Rudolf).—Six males, 69, 70 mm. (2), 71 mm. (2), and 75 mm.; one female, 66 mm.; one juv. 66 mm.

E. l. vulpina.—Four males, 71 mm. (3), 76 mm.; two females, 67 and 68 mm.

(6) *Zosterops senegalensis australoabyssinicus*, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *Zosterops senegalensis jubaensis* Erlanger, Orn. Monatsb. ix. 1901, p. 182: Domasso, Lower Juba River, in being greener above and brighter yellow below, and in the male the forehead is not so bright yellow. Differs from *Z. s. fricki* Mearns, Smith. Misc. Coll. lxi. no. 20, p. 7: Boulder Hill, Thika River, Kenya Colony, in lacking any greyish tinge to the green of the mantle.

Distribution.—Yavello and Arero, 60 miles east of Yavello, and surrounding country, Southern Abyssinia. Occurring both in arid thorn scrub at 4000 ft. and in juniper woods at 6000 ft.

Sclater, in Syst. Av. Æthiop. p. 673, records the distribution of *Z. s. jubaensis* as extending west to the Omo and Lake Stephanie, but birds from these localities are presumably referable to this new race.

Type.—Male. Near Yavello, S. Abyssinia, 6000 ft., July 26, 1941. Taken by C. W. Benson; collector's no. E.516. Measurements of type: wing 55, tail 33.5 mm.

Remarks.—Sixteen specimens, as well as the type, were collected. Wing-measurements: males, 52, 54 mm. (3), 55 mm. (2), 56 mm. (2); females, 53 mm. (2), 54 mm. (2), 55 mm. (2), and two, sex undetermined, 54 and 55 mm.

They have been compared with three topotypical *Z. s. jubaensis* in Dr. van Someren's collection; wings, two males 53 and 54 mm.; one female 52 mm.

Seven specimens from the coastal belt of Kenya which are nearest to *Z. s. jubaensis* also examined; also six topotypical *Z. s. flavilateralis* Reichenow, J. f. O. 1892, p. 193: Ndi, Teita, Kenya Colony, and seven topotypical *Z. s. fricki*.

Sclater, in 'Systema Avium Æthiopicarum', regards *Z. s. fricki* as a synonym of *Z. s. flavilateralis*, but *Z. s. fricki* has a greyish tinge to the mantle which is lacking in *Z. s. flavilateralis*, and is slightly paler yellow below. Friedmann, in Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. pt. 2, 1937, p. 369, also upholds *Z. s. fricki*.

(7) *Anthreptes collaris djamdjamensis*, subsp. nov.

Description.—Nearest to *Anthreptes collaris jubaensis* van Someren, J. E. A. & U. N. H. Soc. no. 37, 1931 p. 95: Hellescheid, Juba River, with which it agrees with regard to the bright canary-yellow of the underside in both the male and female, but the flanks are olive-tinged, a feature lacking in the Juba birds. The female of *A. c. djamdjamensis* also has a slight olive wash on the breast and lower throat; this is lacking in *A. c. jubaensis*. The mantle of both these races is bright grass-green without a yellow tinge, present in Kenya Colony races.

The male of *A. c. djamdjamensis* also appears to be a somewhat larger bird (wing-measurements of seven adult males 52.5, 53 mm. (5), 54 mm.; four adult females 48, 49, 51, 53 mm.; one adult male and one adult female of *A. c. jubaensis* give the following: 48 and 51 mm.).

A. c. garguensis Mearns, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xlviii. 1915, p. 389: Mt. Garguess, N. Guasso Nyiro, Northern Frontier, Kenya Colony, is an altogether darker, less bright bird than *A. c. djamdjamensis*.

Distribution.—Southern Abyssinia, from Alge (Agheremariam) at 6000 ft., south-east to the Daua Parma River between Yavello and Neghelli, at 3000 ft.; and south-west to the Sagan River between Yavello and Giarso, at 3000 ft. Habitat, dense overgreen scrub.

Type.—Breeding male. Alge, S. Abyssinia, 6000 ft., September 22, 1941. Collected by C. W. Benson; collector's no. E.896.

Female type: same locality and collector. December 3, 1941. No. E.1462.

Measurements: wing 53, tail 36, exposed portion of culmen 13.5 mm. Female: wing 48, tail 32, exposed portion of culmen 13 mm.

Remarks.—My birds have been compared with the following in Dr. van Someren's collection:—

A. c. jubaensis, one male and one female.

A. c. garguensis, five males and one female.

A. c. elachior Mearns, Smith. Misc. Coll. lvi. 1910, no. 14, p. 5: Changamwe, near Mombasa, 23 males and 15 females.

A. c. ugandæ van Someren, Bull. B. O. C. xli. 1921, p. 113: Maraquet, Kenya Colony, nine males and six females.

A. c. teitensis van Someren, Bull. B. O. C. xli. 1921, p. 113: Teita, Kenya Colony, four males and three females.

All these races appear to be recognizable. It has been stated above that this new race appears to be somewhat larger than *A. c. jubaensis*. If a series of *A. c. jubaensis* were available for comparison it would probably be found that it is smaller than *A. c. djamdjamensis* in both sexes. In

working out my collection from Southern Abyssinia I have had to continually refer to Dr. van Someren's collection from the Juba River area at 1000 ft. and under, and it may be stated as a rule of wide application that the birds of this low-level area tend to run very small.

(8) *Passer griseus tertale*, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Passer griseus gongonensis* (Oustalet), 'Le Naturaliste', 1890, p. 274: Gongoni, near Mombasa, but darker on the crown and mantle and darker grey on the throat and upper breast, and although possessing the same type of heavy bill, with curved culmen, the bill is definitely smaller. Distinguishable from *P. g. swainsonii* Rüppell, N. Wirbelt., Vög. 1840, p. 94, pl. 33: "Abyssinia, Sennar, Kordofan", by the larger size, heavier bill and darker, purer brown mantle.

Distribution.—The neighbourhood of Gardulla and Tertale, the latter between Yavello and Giarso, at comparatively low elevations (*i. e.*, about 3000 ft.), Southern Abyssinia.

Type.—Male. 30 miles west of Yavello, Southern Abyssinia, 3000 ft., January 16, 1942. Collected by C. W. Benson; collector's no. E.1865. Measurements of type: wing 98, tail 61, culmen, from base of skull, 17 mm.

Remarks.—The view here adopted is that *P. gongonensis* is conspecific with *P. griseus*, thus agreeing with van Someren in Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 168. If, on the other hand, *P. gongonensis* is regarded as a distinct species, then this new race would have to be known as *P. gongonensis tertale*. The position in the Yavello area of Southern Abyssinia is that in the higher country at 4500–5000 ft. at Yavello and Alge (Agheremariam) we find *P. g. swainsonii* occurring, with wing-measurements of eight specimens collected as follows:—Four males, 83, 84, 86, 91 mm.; four females, 80, 81, 82, 82 mm.

In the lower country at 3000–4000 ft. to the west of Yavello we find *P. griseus gongonensis*, with wing-measurements as follows:—Six males, 89, 90, 93, 98 mm. (3); one female, 93 mm.; one (sex?), 95 mm.

It will be observed from the foregoing figures that there is an overlap in size, which may be taken as evidence of intergradation. Moreover, the male with wing 91 mm. in the first group, from Alge at 6000 ft., has bill very little less heavy than a male with wing 89 mm. in the second group, from 30 miles west of Yavello at 3000 ft. On the other hand, Dr. van Someren has at Kisumu in the immediate neighbourhood of the town collected both *P. griseus ugandæ* and a heavy-billed bird belonging to the *P. gongonensis* group.

My specimens of this new race have been compared with fourteen topotypical specimens of *P. griseus gongonensis* from the coastal strip of Kenya Colony. Apart from the bill-difference already cited, the coastal birds appear to be rather larger, wings 95–102 mm. in the male, 85–90 mm. in the female. I have also taken the opportunity to examine part of the material from the country between Ukamba and Lake Rudolf, referred to by van Someren in Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 168, as intermediate in point of size, including the bill, between *P. g. gongonensis* and *P. g. swainsonii*. There are nine of these birds still in Dr. van Someren's collection. They have less robust bills than in the case of topotypical *P. gongonensis*, and they (the bills of these birds) are only slightly heavier than are the bills of my series of *P. g. tertale*. They are thus intermediate between the Kenya Colony coastal and the Southern Abyssinian birds, as they are also geographically. Wing-measurements of these intermediate birds: male 90–95 mm.; female 91–96 mm.

With regard to the bill-differences referred to above, although measurements do not adequately illustrate them, they are at once apparent to the eye.

Friedmann, in Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. part 2, Passeres, 1937, pp. 390–391, refers birds collected by the Childs-Frick expedition in Southern Abyssinia near Gardulla and Tertale to *P. gongonensis*, and Gardulla is, therefore, included above in the distribution of this new race.

(9) *Passer griseus jubaensis*, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *P. griseus gongonensis* in its smaller bill (length and depth). Distinguishable from both *P. griseus gongonensis* and *P. g. tertale* by being paler below but more rufescent above on the mantle and rump.

Distribution.—Middle and upper waters of the Juba River, at below 1000 ft.

Type.—Male. Mandera, Juba River, October 1922. Collected by Dr. van Someren and in his private collection. Measurement of type: wing 96, tail 59, culmen from base 16 mm.

Remarks.—Seven specimens in Dr. van Someren's collection, in addition to the type. Wing-measurements: six males, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97 mm.; one female, 88 mm.; one, sex undetermined, 87 mm. These specimens are referred to by Dr. van Someren in J. E. A. & U. N. H. Soc. no. 35, March 1930, "Notes on birds from Jubaland and the Northern Frontier of Kenya Colony", under the name *P. g. swainsonii*, and were said to be intermediate between *P. g. swainsonii* and *P. g. gongonensis*. This new race certainly belongs to the larger-billed *P. g. gongonensis* group.

(10) *Pseudonigrita arnaudi australoabyssinicus*, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *P. arnaudi arnaudi* (Bonaparte), *Consp. Gen. Av. i.* 1850, p. 444 : White Nile, and *P. a. kapitensis* Mearns, *Smith. Misc. Coll. lvi.* 1910, no. 14, p. 5 : Juja Farm, Kapiti Plains, Kenya Colony—the latter synonymized by Sclater with *P. arnaudi arnaudi*, *vide Syst. Av. Æthiop.* p. 719, though recognized, on account of its larger size, by both van Someren, *Nov. Zool. Tring.* xxix. 1922, p. 146, and Friedmann, *Bull.* 153, *U.S. Nat. Hist. Mus.* pt. 2, 1937, p. 383, in that the crown is of a darker, more ashy-grey, and the mantle is darker, with an appearance of obscure mottling. The contrast between the crown and mantle is less marked in *P. a. australoabyssinicus* than in the other two races referred to.

Distribution.—Southern Abyssinia, between Mega and Yavello, at 4000–4500 ft., in “ arid thorn-acacia ” country.

Type.—Breeding male. Yavello, S. Abyssinia, June 15, 1941. Collected by C. W. Benson ; collector’s no. E.100. Measurements of type : wing 66, tail 33 mm.

Remarks.—In addition to the type, four males, wings 65–66 mm., seven females, wings 64–66.5 mm., and one, sex undetermined, wing 64 mm., were collected. It is as well to emphasize that the slight degree of mottling already referred to is not indicative of immaturity, for most of the birds were in breeding condition.

My birds have been compared with ten, including seven toponotypical *P. a. kapitensis* and three *P. a. arnaudi*, from western Rudolf area in Dr. van Someren’s collection.

This species does not appear to have been previously recorded from Southern Abyssinia.

Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Captain C. H. B. GRANT and Lieut.-Colonel C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED sent the following ten notes :—

(1) On the Races of *Pogoniulus pusillus pusillus* (Dumont) occurring in Eastern Africa.

In the *Bull. B. O. C.* lviii. 1938, p. 140, we considered, on the evidence before us, that both *P. p. lollesheid* van Someren and *P. p. eupterus* Grote were synonyms of *P. p. affinis* (Reichenow).

In the *O. M.* 1939, p. 83, Grote gives his reasons for recognizing *P. p. eupterus* and for placing *P. p. lollesheid* as a synonym of *P. p. affinis*. He places *P. p. affinis* as a coastal race from southern Italian Somaliland to Tanganyika Territory with a wing of 46–52 mm., and *P. p. eupterus* as an inland race covering the Kilimanjaro area with a wing of 53–58 mm.